

REMARKS

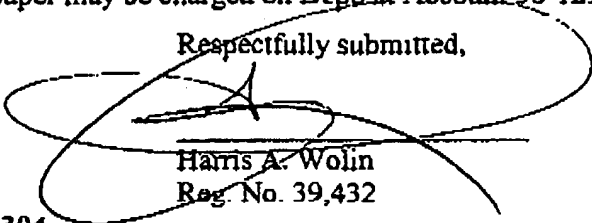
An Office Action was mailed on February 10, 2004, and declared Final. Claims 1-40 are pending.

Claims 1, 14, 27 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by newly cited Nimura (U.S. Patent 5,947,823), while claims 1-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over previously cited Horigami et al. '599. Responsive thereto, and in accordance with discussions with the Examiner and the Examiner's Supervisor (for which the Applicant is tremendously grateful), Applicant has amended the claims to define over the cited art. Specifically, the shadow character is now defined as a shadow projection of the first character produced by said virtual light source, and wherein the first and shadow characters are independently controlled while maintaining said shadow character in shadow contact with said first character. These amendments are believed to amply overcome the cited art for reasons set forth in Applicant's Response of December 1, 2003, and for reasons discussed with the Examiner and the Examiner's Supervisor.

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections and rejections. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that claims 1-40, consisting of independent claims 1, 14, 27 and 40 and the claims dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,


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